

Youth Crime Watch Newsletter



Fire Prevention Tips for Your Home and While Cooking

Do you kids out there ever wonder why you have to practice fire drills at home? I know most of you think it is a waste of time and really stupid because, hey, I'm a kid too! Although you may think it is a waste of time, it is very important to know exactly what to do so that when the real thing comes around, you won't panic. The following tips will definitely ensure the prevention of a fire in your home and the survival of you and your family.

- Be sure to have smoke alarms in every room of your

home.

- Be sure to check the smoke alarms monthly.
- Draw a floor plan of your home and learn the escape routes and keep them clear of any objects.
- If you happen to have children, teach them the escape routes as well.
- Know how to contact the fire department or the police in your area.
- Hold an exit drill every 6-8 months.
- Keep all cloth items away from the stove while it's in use.

- Wear short, close-fitting, or tightly rolled-up sleeves when cooking.
- Turn pot handles inward so pots can't be knocked off of the stove or pulled down by small children.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep your stove top and oven clean as grease and other food residues can catch fire.
- Teach your children that hot lids can cause serious burns.

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Drug and Teen Substance Abuse: Why do it?

One of the many problems faced by several teens today is drug and substance abuse. Do you ever wonder why people take drugs or drink alcohol? Well, I don't know about you but I have. So, I did some research on this subject. The main reason why teenagers become involved with illegal or even legal drugs because they are simply curious. Research proves that experimentation with drugs is very common

among young adults. Teens use drugs for several reasons including curiosity, it "feels" good, to reduce stress, to feel grown up, or even to fit in. Research also shows that the teenagers at risk for developing serious alcohol and drug problems include kids who have a history of substance abuse in their families, kids who are depressed, have low self-esteem, or who don't feel like they fit into the

"mainstream." These kids can go through several physical, emotional, family, school, and social changes and problems. If you know a friend, family member, or anyone who is abusing drugs and/or alcohol, talk to a trusted adult, a school counselor, family advocacy, or a parent.



Interested in becoming involved with SNAP? If so, call 068-27-6143

Guess what? We're on the web! For more information, visit the website at www.ycma.org



The SNAP Weekly Rap

I'm back again with another rhyme. This time it's going to be about skateboard safety, that is if you don't mind. So pay close attention to what I have to say because I'm only going to say this once. Okay, be sure to always wear a helmet when on your skateboard. Never ride in the street so that you can protect yourself, others, and even me. Never hitch a ride on a bicycle, bus, or a car. Do you get my drift so far? Be sure to always wear protective gear to ensure you're still around for another twenty to thirty years. Learn the proper way to fall so that you won't get hurt at all. Before skateboarding, inspect the area around you and be careful with jumps and tricks that are difficult to do. Now, you see, the importance of safety while riding a skateboard...hopefully. If you didn't get the rhyme, well, better luck next time!

Online Shopping Safety Tips

Now I know this is a subject that everyone can relate to. I know for a fact that everyone likes to shop online whether it be for video games, clothes, jewelry, shoes, CDs, or even household appliances. Internet shopping can be fun and efficient. Security experts even claim that online shopping is much safer than shopping by mail order because personal data is stolen more frequently from mailboxes than during secure online transmissions. But how can you protect yourself from internet scams? If you follow these tips right here they will ensure the protection of your money, your credit, and yourself.

- Know your seller. When shopping online, be as picky as you are when shopping in town.
- Know where your data goes. Since an online merchant collects private information from you during a purchase, you have a right to know what, how, and where that data will be used.
- Shop secure sites.
- Be aware of website registration.
- Recognize secure web pages.
- Use credit cards. Never use a cashier's check to pay and never wire money to a merchant.
- Print a copy of your completed order confirmation or at least copy down your confirmation number and make a note of any additional correspondence or e-mail.
- After you complete your online shopping, clean up after yourself. Take advantage of the washing features which allow you to clear off the remnants of your online transactions that hide in quiet corners of your computer.
- When you fully understand the traps and scams involved with online shopping and when you have taken to heart the above suggestions about avoiding these such things, have fun and shop till you drop!



Check out our website, at <http://www.80asg.army.mil/sites/about/snap/home.asp>, for more Youth Crime Prevention newsletters and more.



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